Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight states, including family planning services.

No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) method (without a cut or a stitch) of male sterilization has been introduced to promote male participation in family planning programme since 1997.

Treatment of British heart and lung patients in India

48. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain's National Health Service wants to avail of Indian expertise in treatment of British heart and lung patients in India;

(b) whether N.H.S. officials are in India for negotiations with Indian officials to finalize arrangements for sending patients to India for heart surgery and lung ailment treatment; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be finalised and put into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CGHS facilities in H.P.

49. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Himachal Pradesh where CGHS facilities are available;

(b) the approved private hospitals in the State where the CGHS beneficiaries can get treatment free of cost;